



KENNETH A. GIBSON

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

07102

February 10, 1983

Hon. Peter Shapiro
County Executive
County of Essex
Hall of Records - Room 520
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

During the past year, the City of Newark has been forced to retain large numbers of County prisoners within its municipal jail system over a prolonged period of time, due to the failure of Essex County to take custody and control over these inmates.

I wish to remind you again of the horrible conditions in our holding facility because of Essex County's refusal to accept prisoners which are legally and rightfully theirs. We are faced with a severe overcrowding of prisoners, which has forced us at times to house 6 to 7 prisoners to a cell. This act creates its own set of problems, including damage to our cells, attacks on our officers, allegations of homosexuality, fights among inmates and low morale and frustration on the part of our officers. But, these are only the intangible costs. Additionally, we have experienced increased costs associated with the housing of these inmates. The fiscal cost of housing and feeding so many inmates for so lengthy a period is beginning to wear this City down. With all the cutbacks in government, I should not have to remind you how scarce our resources are. We do not have sufficient resources to cope with this ever-growing problem. These costs should be equitably proportioned between the City and the County according to the status of the prisoner and duration of his stay.

Hon. Peter Shapiro
February 10, 1983
Page Two

Because of our scarcity of resources, and because it is the County's responsibility we are shouldering, we have prepared and attached twelve (12) monthly bills for 1982 for the expenses incurred on behalf of the County. Additionally, we will continue to bill the County on a monthly basis at the per diem rate of \$42.95 per prisoner for all costs incurred in feeding and housing prisoners that should be the County's responsibility. The figure of \$42.95 is the same rate the State pays the County for holding their prisoners, and it does approximate our actual cost.

The total cost to Newark for feeding and housing prisoners who should have been the County's responsibility in 1982 is \$1,252,076.40.

We shall continue the practice of monthly billing until such time as the County is prepared to face its legal and moral responsibility.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Gibson

KAG:pa

Attachment